

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 193519

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S: MR. COLLUMS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193519

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, TZ

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE TO THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 192462 (NOTAL)

FYI: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUBJECT LETTER DATED JULY 28
DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT AUGUST 3 BY AMBASSADOR BOMANI:
BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY, I AM ALWAYS
PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU, AND I THANK YOU FOR THE LETTER
WHICH WAS PASSED TO ME BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO
TANZANIA, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SPAIN. I WOULD LIKE TO
REPLY TO YOUR COURTESY WITH EQUAL FRANKNESS, FOR I AM
ANXIOUS TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY MISUNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA, HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. SPAIN, DID INFORM ME SOME TIME AGO OF THE POLITICAL
AND CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION OF PUERTO RICO, AND I HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 193519

PASSED TO HIM A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FOR THE MANNER

IN WHICH HE HAD DONE SO. FOR MR. SPAIN EXPLAINED THE POSITION OF THAT ISLAND IN RELATION TO THE UNITED STATES AS A MATTER OF INTEREST TO US UNCONNECTED WITH ANY INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, AND THEREFORE WITHOUT ANY IMPLIED PRESSURE OR THREAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OR CONSEQUENCES

OF ANY DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

WHEN GOVERNOR SCRANTON VISITED DAR ES SALAAM HE INDICATED TO US A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WHICH THE U.S.A. HOPED WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THE O.A.U. MEETING IN MAURITIUS, OR THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO, AND PUERTO RICO WAS INCLUDED. I TOOK THAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION ON ALL THOSE MATTERS AND ALSO TO REPEAT MY APPRECIATION FOR THE MANNER AND THE TIMING OF AMBASSADOR SPAIN'S EXPLANATION TO ME ON THE SUBJECT OF PUERTO RICO. FOR I HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT BEEN TAKEN ABACK BY THE TIMING OF GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S DISCUSSION OF THESE QUESTIONS, AND THE SPECIFIC LINK WITH MAURITIUS AND COLOMBO. BUT MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAD EXTREMELY AMICABLE TALKS WITH GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND I FELT THAT WE HAD CLEARED ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. NOW YOU RAISE AGAIN THE PROBLEM OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, AND YOU RAISE THEM IN RELATION TO THE FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT COLOMBO AND WHAT YOU HOPE WE WILL DO OR NOT DO.

IN PRACTICE, OF COURSE, BOTH THE O.A.U. AND THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE INSIST UPON DRAWING UP THEIR OWN AGENDA, JUST AS DO NATO, THE E.E.C., THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AND ALL THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES OF WHICH TANZANIA IS NOT A MEMBER. THE UNITED NATIONS IS A WIDER ORGANIZATION, OF WHICH THE U.S.A. AND TANZANIA ARE TWO OF THE 144 MEMBERS. THE AGENDA OF ITS DIFFERENT COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS ARE DECIDED UPON BY ALL THE U.N. MEMBERS, ACTING TOGETHER; EVEN WHEN A COUNTRY'S NATION IS THE CHAIRMAN, THAT NATION DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHAT SHALL BE DISCUSSED AND WHAT EXCLUDED. EACH MEMBER STATE DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT A SUBJECT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ACCORDING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 193519

TO ITS OWN POLICIES AND ITS OWN INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES.

IT IS, I SUSPECT, INEVITABLE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND TANZANIA SHOULD DISAGREE ON SOME OF THESE MATTERS, AS WELL AS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF ANY RESOLUTIONS WHICH DO COME BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS. AMERICA IS VERY LARGE, AND POWERFUL BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY; IT IS A MEMBER OF NATO. TANZANIA IS SMALL, POOR, AND

WITHOUT MILITARY STRENGTH; IT IS NON-ALIGNED BETWEEN THE POWER BLOCKS, BUT VERY STRONGLY COMMITTED TO ANTI-COLONIALISM. BUT ALTHOUGH OUR WEAKNESS MAKES US PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE, WE DO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF THE BIG POWERS TOO, AND WE DO REALISE THAT THEY FEEL SENSITIVE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. IT IS ON THIS BASIS THAT I BELIEVE A MAJOR TASK OF OUR GOVERNMENTS IS TO AVOID DISAGREEMENT DEVELOPING OUT OF UNNECESSARY MISUNDERSTANDINGS, TO MAXIMISE THE AREAS OF COOPERATION WHICH EXIST, AND TO MINIMISE THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS ON OURSELVES AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AND ON OTHER COUNTRIES, OF ANY DISAGREEMENTS WHICH DO REMAIN.

IT WAS IN THAT CONTEXT THAT I APPRECIATED THE INFORMATION GIVEN TO ME BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ABOUT PUERTO RICO, AND FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE MATTER HAS BEEN RAISED FOR THE THIRD TIME, AND NOW LINKED WITH THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND THE U.N. COMMITTEE OF 24.

ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, AS ON ALL OTHERS, IT IS HELPFUL TO KNOW THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE ANY POSSIBLE DEBATE ON THE MATTER IN THE UNITED NATIONS, FOR I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU MEANT IN ANY WAY TO CHALLENGE THE DUTY OF TANZANIA TO MAKE ITS OWN JUDGMENT ABOUT THAT HISTORICALLY COMPLEX SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF OUR OWN BASIC POLICIES. I DID EXPLAIN TO YOUR AMBASSADOR THE WAY IN WHICH WE LOOK AT THIS MATTER: VERY BRIEFLY, WE DO SUPPORT THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED NATIONS TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE TWO THINGS ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE, AND CONDUCTIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAT COUNTRY AND ALL ITS PEOPLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 193519

TANZANIA'S MAIN CONCERN, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BE THE MATTERS YOU AND I DISCUSSED TOGETHER - THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. I WAS INTERESTED TO HEAR FROM MR. SCHAUFLE THE REPORT OF YOUR TALK WITH MR. VORSTER ON THIS, AND PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO NAMIBIA. FOR, AS I HAVE EXPLAINED TO YOU, WE NOW BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY THING TO DO IN RHODESIA IS TO WAIT FOR MR. SMITH TO BE CONVINCED, BY A COMBINATION OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE WORLD COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE, THAT HIS POLICY HAS NO FUTURE. WE IN TANZANIA, AND OUR NEIGHBORS, REMAIN OPPOSED TO ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THIS CONFLICT, FOR WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE RHODESIANS CAN LIBERATE THEMSELVES FROM MINORITY RULE IF THE SMITH REGIME FAILS TO RECEIVE HELP FROM OUTSIDE.

BUT THESE THINGS WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED, AND THERE
IS NO NEED FOR ME TO SAY MORE ABOUT THEM NOW. I AM
HAPPY THAT OUR COUNTRIES ARE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A
SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF UNITY AND MAJORITY RULE IN
BOTH RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, AND HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL
THEREFORE CONTINUE TO BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO WORK IN
HARMONY TO THIS END.

ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, DR. KISSINGER, TO SEND
MY PERSONAL GOOD WISHES TO YOU. I LOOK FORWARD TO
A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SOME
APPROPRIATE OCCASION, FOR I MUCH APPRECIATED OUR MEETING.
YOURS SINCERELY, /S/ JULIUS K. NYERERE. END TEXT. HABIB

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